

## **Frequently Asked Questions :**

### Waste Tire Management Program (WTMP)

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) [www.deq.virginia.gov/wastetires](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wastetires)

1. What is the purpose of the tire tax paid by consumers when they purchase new tires in Virginia? The tire fee is collected to support the state's program to coordinate the proper management of current flow tires, i.e, tires that are removed when new tires are purchased, and to provide funding to support the cleanup of illegal tire piles in the Commonwealth. The original fee was set at \$0.50 per new tire purchased, but was increased to \$1.00 per new tire in 2003 specifically to provide new funding for tire pile cleanups. Of the \$1.00 fee on each new tire, the retailer may retain 5 percent, or 5 cents for expenses, for a net fee of 95 cents per tire (regardless of size) available to DEQ for the WTMP program. \$0.50 of the collected fee has been dedicated to tire pile cleanups, with the balance (\$0.45) used to support DEQ's administrative costs and the End User Reimbursement (EUR) Program. The tire fee will be reduced to \$0.50 per new tire on July 1, 2011.
2. What is the End User Reimbursement Program? Since 1994, DEQ has worked to strengthen the markets for Virginia-derived waste tire material with its End User Reimbursement (EUR) Program, providing a financial rebate to those companies/entities that use Virginia tire material in their products or processes. Over the years, this program has provided sufficient incentives to end users to support the capture, processing and beneficial use of almost 100% of the waste tires generated in Virginia. The End User Reimbursement Program makes direct payments to beneficial end users of Virginia-generated waste tire material. The program was authorized by the Virginia General Assembly in 1994 (§10.1-1418.3 of the Code of Virginia) and regulations were adopted by the Virginia Waste Management Board which established the eligible uses and reimbursement rates, currently at \$22.50 per ton of tire material (equivalent to 22.5 cent per tire) or \$100 per ton (\$1.00 per tire) if from a certified tire pile. Only seven states have used the EUR system to support markets (most provide selective grants or loans) and Virginia is the only state to offer the tire pile cleanup payment differential.

3. Does DEQ or the WTMP provide any grants to tire businesses, tire haulers or processors for the management of waste tires? No. The WTMP is only authorized to support the beneficial use of Virginia waste tire material through payment of the end user reimbursements as indicated above, and coordinate tire pile cleanups through contracts or other management options. Tire businesses and tire haulers may benefit from lower tip fees charged by processors which are a result of the subsidized value of the Virginia-derived waste tire material produced by the processors and provided to the end users. Examples of end users of Virginia-derived waste tire material are power plants (tire-derived fuel), concrete plants (tire material as a raw material in the concrete manufacturing process), landfill operations (tire shred/chips used for civil engineering uses), and road construction firms (tire shred/chips used for civil engineering use in road building).
4. Are there any state incentives for tire recycling operations? Yes, Virginia provides tax credits for the purchase of recycling equipment, and authorizes local governments to offer tax credits for such equipment. Visit <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/waste/rtaxinc.html> for information on recycling and pollution control tax incentive programs, Virginia's tax credits and exemptions for businesses investing in recycling.
5. How does tire recycling work in Virginia? The goal of the WTMP is to eliminate tire piles in the state, and to maximize the proper management of waste tires as they are replaced with new tires. Citizens are encouraged to leave their old tires with the retailer instead of taking them home, or to turn old tires into their community's waste tire collection system. Storage of more than 100 waste tires requires a DEQ permit, and speculative accumulation of waste tires is not allowable. Retailers and other generators of waste tires are encouraged to contract for regular collection of their waste tires by using DEQ's registered waste tire haulers, or to deliver their waste tires to a permitted waste tire processor. Waste tire processors reduce the waste tires to shred, chips or smaller sizes to meet the specifications of the end use markets for the processed waste tire material. The end users can claim the End Use Reimbursement from DEQ for each ton of Virginia-generated waste tire material used.

6. What is the penalty for illegal dumping of waste tires in Virginia? Dumping of tires is illegal in Virginia. State law (§10.1-1418.B & C. of the Code of Virginia) states: *B. It shall be unlawful for any person to store, dispose of, speculatively accumulate or otherwise place more than 100 waste tires on public or private property, without first having obtained a permit as required by § 10.1-1408.1 or in a manner consistent with any local ordinance. No person shall allow others to store, dispose of, speculatively accumulate or otherwise place on his property more than 100 waste tires, without first having obtained a permit as required by § 10.1-1408.1. C. Any person who knowingly violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor (confinement in jail for up to twelve months and a fine of up to \$2,500, either or both). However, any person who knowingly violates any provision of this section and such violation involves 500 or more waste tires shall be guilty of a Class 6 felony (imprisonment for one to five years or jail for up to 12 months and a fine of up to \$2,500, either or both).*
7. How can I get into the tire recycling business? Visit <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wastetires/progsummary2.html#StartingATireRecyclingBusiness> for information on starting a tire recycling business. You may also contact the WTMP staff directly at 804-698-4029 or 804-698-4215.